

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A drill/driver chuck including:

 cylindrical member having a central axis bore and a plurality of further bores such that the plurality of further bores are slanted with respect to the axis of the cylindrical member;

 a plurality of jaws, each jaw being associated with a respective one of the further bores and moveable therewith;

 a conical jaw actuator, coupled to each of the jaws of the plurality, for moving the jaws within their respective further bores, the jaw actuator having a conical shape with walls of the cone having a plurality of slots formed therein such that each slot co-operates with a respective one of the plurality of jaws and wherein movement of the conical jaw actuator is non-rotational in a direction along the axis of the cylindrical member which causes concomitant movement of the jaws within their respective slots in a radial direction with respect to the axis of the cylindrical member; and

an activation element, said activation element non-rotatably movable along the longitudinal axis for applying movement force to said conical jaw actuator so the chuck characterized in that no rotational movement occurs in said the cylindrical member, plurality of jaws and conical jaw actuator do not rotate relative to one another in order to enable transitional movement of said plurality of jaws along the axis.

2. (Previously Presented) A drill/driver chuck according to claim 1 wherein the jaw actuator is concentrically mounted about the cylindrical member.

3. (Previously Presented) A drill/driver chuck according to claim 1 wherein the jaws radially converge or diverge within the central axial bore of the cylindrical member.

4. (Previously Presented) A drill/driver chuck according to claim 3 wherein the converging jaws meet each other beyond the confines of the cylindrical member.

5. (Previously Presented) A drill/driver chuck according to claim 4 wherein converging movement of the jaws is concomitant with radial inward movement of each jaw within its respective slot.

6. (Previously Presented) A chuck including:

a cylindrical member having a central axial bore formed along a longitudinal axis of the cylindrical member and a plurality of further bores such that the plurality of further bores are slanted with respect to the longitudinal axis of the cylindrical member;

a plurality of jaws, each jaw being associated with a respective one of the further bores and moveable therewithin;

a conical jaw actuator, coupled to each of the jaws of the plurality, for moving the jaws within their respective further bores, the jaw actuator having a conical shape with walls of the cone having a plurality of slots formed therein such that each

slot co-operates with a respective one of the plurality of jaws and wherein movement of the jaw actuator in a direction along the axis of the cylindrical member causes concomitant movement of the jaws within their respective slots in a radial direction with respect to the axis of the cylindrical member; and

a thrust plate coupled to the jaw actuator, the thrust plate non-rotatably movable on the cylindrical member along the longitudinal axis in order to apply movement force to the jaw actuator, said thrust plate constrained against rotational movement about the longitudinal axis so that said thrust plate does not rotate relative to said cylindrical member during said movement.

7. (Previously Presented) The chuck recited in claim 6, wherein the jaw actuator is concentrically mounted about the cylindrical member.

8. (Previously Presented) The chuck recited in claim 6, wherein the jaws radially converge or diverge within the central axial bore of the cylindrical member.

9. (Previously Presented) The chuck recited in claim 8, wherein the converging jaws meet each other beyond the confines of the cylindrical member.

10. (Previously Presented) The chuck recited in claim 9, wherein converging movement of the jaws is concomitant with radial inward movement of each jaw within its respective slot.

11. (Previously Presented) The chuck recited in claim 6, said cylindrical member further including an axially extending shaft, said actuator and said thrust plate mounted about said shaft.

12. (Previously Presented) The chuck recited in claim 11, said actuator including a collet member disposed about said shaft, said thrust plate disposed about said collet member.

13. (Previously Presented) The chuck recited in claim 12, said collet member including an external annular recess, a retainer disposed in said recess to retain said thrust plate on said collet member.

14. (Previously Presented) The chuck recited in claim 13, said thrust plate including a bush facing said jaw actuator.

15. (Previously Presented) The chuck recited in claim 14, a thrust bearing disposed between said bush and said jaw actuator.